CLAIMS

1. A method for minimizing performance degradation of an output manager status module, the method comprising:

   (a) managing, by an output manager status module, image information of an image;

   (b) receiving a notification that updated image information for the image is available;

   (c) determining whether receipt of the updated image information will affect performance of the output manager status module; and

   (d) refraining from receiving the updated image information if, based on the determination, its receipt will affect the performance of the output manager status module.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the managing step further comprises at least one of displaying the image information, managing printing operations, managing proofing operations, managing backup operations, and performing image operations.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises determining an image activity status for the image.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising determining if a number of updates for the image over a fixed duration of time meets a number of updates threshold for managing image information.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising setting the image activity status to a busy state if the number of updates exceeds the number of updates threshold.

6. The method of claim 4 further comprising setting the image activity status to a not busy state if the number of updates is at least one of lower than and meets the number of updates threshold.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the determining step further comprises determining a size of the image.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the determining of the size of the image further comprises at least one of determining a number of pages of the image, determining a number of separations of the image, and determining a size of a data structure associated with the image.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the determining of the size of the image further comprises comparing the size of the image and a size threshold.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising setting an image size status to a large state if the image size exceeds the size threshold.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the refraining step further comprises refraining from receiving the updated image information if the image size status is set to the large state and the image activity status is set to the busy state.

12. The method of claim 10 further comprising receiving the updated image information if the image size status is set to a state other than the large state.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising querying the updated image information.

14. The method of claim 10 further comprising receiving the updated image information if the image size status is set to the large state and the image activity status is set to a state other than the busy state.

15. The method of claim 10 further comprising monitoring the image size status and the image activity status.

16. The method of claim 10 further comprising receiving the updated image information after a predetermined period of time.

17. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing an indication of at least one of the image activity status and the image size status to a user.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the managing of image information further comprises managing information for a plurality of images grouped into a job.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the refraining step further comprises refraining from receiving the updated image information if the image size status is set to the large state and the image activity status is set to the busy state.

20. A method for minimizing performance degradation of an output manager status module, the method comprising:

(a) managing, on an output manager status module, image information of an image;

(b) continuously monitoring the image information to determine how frequent the image is being changed; and

(c) receiving updated image information for the image when the image is being changed less than a predetermined amount.

5   21. The method of claim 20 wherein the receiving step further comprises transmitting a request to receive the updated image information.

22. An output manager status module comprising:

(a) a managing module managing image information of an image;

(b) a receiver receiving a notification that updated image information for the image is

10   available;

(c) a performance monitor determining whether receipt of the updated image information will affect performance of the output manager status module; and

(d) an updated information refraining module refraining from receiving the updated image information if, based on the determination made by the performance monitor, its receipt

15   will affect the performance of the output manager status module.

23. The output manager status module of claim 22 wherein the image further comprises a plurality of images.

24. The output manager status module of claim 23 wherein the plurality of images are grouped into a job.

20   25. The output manager status module of claim 22 wherein the performance monitor determines at least one of a number of updates for the image over a fixed duration of time, a size of the image, an image activity status, and an image size status.

26. The output manager status module of claim 25 further comprising a comparator to compare the size of the image and a size threshold.

25   27. The output manager status module of claim 22 wherein the updated information refraining module refrains from querying the updated image information.